

**Question for written answer E-002900/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Tomislav Sokol (PPE)**

Subject: Impact of COVID-19 on the tourism industry

It is becoming increasingly clear that the COVID-19 pandemic will be one of the greatest economic crises of all time and that the European Union is one of the worst affected parts of the world. The economic consequences will be reflected in a recession and a sharp rise in unemployment. The EU's tourism industry employs 12% of the Union's citizens and accounts for 10-11% of its GDP, with as many as 27 million people working directly or indirectly in the tourism industry. Unfortunately, tourism is currently one of the most affected industries in the European Union, and further steps, such as complicated procedures that caterers will have to comply with and working at half-capacity to reduce the risk of the disease spreading, will ultimately result in lower profits. In this context, we can realistically expect there to be a significant increase in unemployment in all countries where tourism accounts for a significant share of the GDP (Croatia, Spain, Greece, etc.).

1. Does the Commission plan to develop a prevention and management mechanism at EU level to protect workers in the tourism industry?
2. In addition to the short-term financial support it has announced, is it planning to support the tourism industry within the next multi-annual financial framework period (2021 to 2027)?
3. What further steps does the Commission intend to take, and how does it intend to respond to bail out the tourism industry?